[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

will entail much hardship to the shop-owners as they are generally too poor to employ paid servants to assist them in conducting these shops.

The prohibition of sale of toddy to women is likely to cause hardship to women engaged in field labour as in their case toddy is generally taken as a food and beverage rather than as an intoxicant. Such prohibitions cannot also effectively prevent women drinking toddy as the law allows the possession and transport of toddy up to half a gallon without license or permit. For these reasons, the Government do not consider that the proposals are feasible.

(2) The answer is in the negative

Facilities for earlier Registration of Documents.

65. **Mr. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the maximum number of documents expected to be registered by a Sub-Registrar in the course of a year with his normal staff, without undue strain on himself and on his staff and without inconvenience to the parties?

(2) Will they kindly consider the desirability of issuing orders that additional or itinerant Sub-Registrars should be appointed in places where the number of documents registered has exceeded half this number in the course of six months?

(3) Are they aware that documents accepted for registration daily is considerably less than the number produced by parties in several Sub-Registry offices?

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) There are three classes of Sub-Registry offices having a staff of five, six and seven clerks respectively. These can register in normal circumstances 3000, 4000 and 5000 documents respectively.

(2) The Government will investigate the matter.

(3) The answer is in the negative.

Removal of the Hospital for Lepers.

66. **Mr. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to call for and place on the table a report as to whether leprosy is not spreading in the neighbourhood of the hospital for lepers at Oolampara?

(2) Are the Government aware that at the time the Leper Asylum was opened in that locality, the belief was that leprosy was not contagious?

(3) In view of the infectious nature of the disease and the proximity of the hospital to the town and the scarcity of drinking and bathing water during the hot weather and the general unsuitability of the place for a leper colony, will the Government be pleased to take steps to open a leper colony in some suitable place, away from thickly populated places?

Mr. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) Enquiries made show that leprosy is not spreading in the neighbourhood of the Hospital for Lepers at Oolampara.

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(2) The belief might have been that the disease was only slightly contagious.

(3) The question of opening a leper colony in a convenient place in Kudamon pakuthi (Kunnattur taluk) is being considered.

Conversion of the Village Road from Mavelikara-Pantalam Road to Kunnattur Market.

67. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the repeated requests of the inhabitants of Iravankara, Tazhakara and the neighbouring places in Mavelikara taluk for turning the village road running southwards from the 2nd milestone on the Mavelikara-Pantalam road to Kunnattur market into a cart road, and the construction of an irrigation culvert at the northern end of the road?

(2) Are the Government aware of the losses and difficulties which the people suffer for want of the road and the culvert?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to expedite the works concerned?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The road is reported to be steep and of little use for carts. The construction of an irrigation culvert is also reported to be not urgently necessary.

(2) The Chief Engineer has received a petition, but the Government are not convinced of the necessity for the conversion of the road and the construction of the culvert at the Government cost.

(3) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (2).

Lands under Tea cultivation.

68. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the following particulars in regard to tea cultivation in the State:—

(*a*) the area of lands which have already been marked out by the Government as available for tea cultivation in the State;

(*b*) the area of lands already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*c*) the area of lands assigned for tea cultivation in the State, owned by Travancoreans or companies incorporated in Travancore and the area owned by Europeans or companies incorporated in Europe;

(*d*) the area of lands, left uncultivated, out of those already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*e*) the area of lands still remaining to be assigned out of the total area referred to in part (*a*);

(*f*) whether the land referred to in part (*a*) is suitable for cultivating any one or more of the following crops, *viz.*, potatoes, grapes, rubber, plantains, bananas, yams, tapioca, hill rice, maize, raggi, peas, gram, Bengal-gram, onions and dhal;

(*g*) whether the lands assigned and marked out for tea cultivation are allowed by the Government to be used for other cultivation;

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